

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 /020 W

----- 001034

O R 061540Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6774

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: POST ASSESSMENT OF ARAB COUNTRY REACTION TO PROSPECTIVE  
ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

REF: A) STATE 216549 B) STATE 220131

1. WE BELIEVE CONTINUED OPPOSITION BY ADMINISTRATION TO ANTI-BOYCOTT  
LEGISLATION, WHICH BY ITS VERY NATURE WOULD TEND TO ACCENTUATE  
CURRENT RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES IN US/ARAB TRADE, IS MORE LIKELY  
TO PERMIT USEFUL STEP-BY-STEP AND CASE-BY-CASE PROGRESS TOWARD ARAB  
ACCOMMODATION WITH USG DESIRE TO EASE OR ELIMINATE BOYCOTT  
ENFORCEMENT THAN ENDORSEMENT OF PENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.  
FROM VIEWPOINT OF EGYPT, EVENTUAL SUCCESS IN THIS EFFORT WOULD  
BE ENHANCED, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS ONLY marginally, BY GOE  
PERCEPTION OF USG EXECUTIVE BRANCHS POLICY STANCE AS ONE OF PRAGMATIC  
,  
NON-LEGALISTIC APPROACH TO PROBLEM.

2. ONLY PRESS COVERAGE OF PENDING LEGISLATION THAT HAS COME TO OUR  
ATTENTION THUS FAR IS WASHINGTON DATE-LINED ARTICLE IN ENGLISH-  
LANGUAGE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE FOR SEPTEMBER 5 WHICH STATES THAT THREE  
ANTI-BOYCOTT BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS AND WHICH  
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NOTES THAT ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES LEGISLATION. AL AHRAH FOR AUGUST

31, ON OTHER HAND, FRONT PAGED STORY ON STUDY BY PM SLAEM  
OF INVESTMENT OFFER BY "MAJOR US CAR COMPANY" (READ FORD) FOR  
PLANTS AT ALEXANDRIA. ARTICLE NOTES THAT LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS  
HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING WHICH COMPANY EXPRESSED DESIRE TO SHIFT  
ACTIVITY FROM ISRAEL TO ARAB COUNTRIES AND THAT COMPANY HAD  
REQUESTED IT BE DELETED FROM BOYCOTT LIST. REGARDLESS OF  
HOW FACTUAL OR COMPLETE AHRAH REPORT IS (SEE SEPTELS ON  
FORD QUESTION), THIS IS EXAMPLE OF LEEWAY THAT EXISTS FOR INITIATIVES  
BY BOTH US AND EGYPT UNDER PRESENT BOYCOTT STRUCTURE.  
MATTHEWS

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## Message Attributes

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